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EVENING DEVOTIONS

FOR THE HOUSEHOLD

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EVENING DEVOTIONS

FOR

THE HOUSEHOLD,

BY THE

REV. EDWARD LATHAM, M.A.,

OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,

AND ONE OF THE ASSISTANT MASTERS IN REPTON SCHOOL.

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PREFACE.

It has become the practice in many homes to change from time to time the books used to guide the family devotions. Such a plan is reasonable. For the bias of an author's mind must lead him to give prominence to some topics and feelings in prayer, while allowing less than their due to others; and the occasional change of book offers a simple and obvious remedy for this evil. The present volume merely seeks a place among others; and thus used it may by God's blessing prove helpful when the household is gathered together for evening prayer.

It is a great evil when that united worship, which ought to be one of the most real and close of family ties, is allowed to degenerate into a mere form. This it is sadly apt to do, especially with the younger or less educated members, if printed prayers alone are used, couched in such general terms as to be alike applicable to all families at all times. The matter demands

the prayerful consideration of all on whom the duty devolves of conducting family worship. Amongst other means which may be adopted to counteract the evil, it is a great point not to let matters of interest to the family as a whole, or to any of its members, pass without direct reference to them in a few words which may be prepared beforehand, and inserted in the usual prayer. The trouble involved will be as nothing to one who feels the importance of making the family devotions a heart-stirring and practical reality to all who take a part in them.

Repton, May 6th, 1868.

*** An Edition of these Prayers, adapted for use in School Boarding Houses, is also published under the title of "*Evening Devotions for Schools.*"

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EVENING DEVOTIONS

ERRATA.

It is requested that the following corrections may be made before the book is used.

Page 56, line 7; after "and" read "as a family" and erase the remainder of the sentence.

Page 81, line 7; after "we" insert "be"

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EVENING DEVOTIONS

FOR

THE HOUSEHOLD.

EVENING DEVOTIONS.

FIRST WEEK.

SUNDAY.

O MOST mighty God, we approach the footstool of thy glorious throne, and yield thee hearty thanks for the protection and blessings of the day. We bless thee that while many have lived to-day in labour and pain, we have had peaceful rest and a quiet mind. While many have been in spiritual darkness and ignorance, we have had the light of thy word, the blessings of thy house, and all the privileges of a Christian sabbath. Grant that all thy gifts may not have been in vain, that the word sown may have found good soil and abide in our hearts, that our future lives may show that we are the better for thy holy day.

We trust thy blessing has been with us in thy house. O Father of mercies, accept us through

the Son of thy love, putting away all our sins for Christ's sake, overcoming in us every evil inclination and wicked thought, and filling us with thy Spirit in holiness, peace, and joy. Make us to abound in love towards one another and towards thee; and give us an unwavering confidence in the atonement of Christ as our one sure hope of heaven. Glory be to thee for the Lamb that was slain for us, for the promise that all we ask shall be granted, all we mourn for pardoned, all we fear removed, and all we hope assured to us, in him. O Lord, when we have sinned, when our hearts are cold and our minds earthy, we find it hard to trust thee, hard to hold fast the ground of our confidence, hard to believe that we are thine, that thou lovest us and that Christ has redeemed us. But by thy Holy Spirit triumph over our infirmities, and keep us altogether thine, that the evil one touch us not.

We commend our earthly future into thy hands. May the hopes and blessings of this day be carried into the coming week. May thy will and word be our rule of life, and may thy favour follow our labours.

We ask these and all other gifts of thy goodness for ourselves and ours, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY.

We kneel again in thy presence, O Lord, the monuments of thy mercy and loving-kindness, who hast kept us ever since we were born, who hast led us safely in the years past through health and sickness, dangers and temptations, and hast gathered us as one family here to hear thy word, rejoice in thy gifts, and exercise thy love and fear amid the daily occupations that engage us. May we not despise or forget our great privileges. May we feel and practise what we know—that we are none of us too young, too weak, too thoughtless, to learn thy love and do thee service. Thou hast given us enjoyments and comforts, may we use them moderately and thankfully. Thou hast assigned us temptations and trials, may we meet them with patience and watchfulness, trusting thee. Thou hast given us an influence and power over the temporal happiness and eternal welfare of our neighbours. O Lord, teach us how to use this great privilege and responsibility aright. Make us kind and thoughtful one towards another, doing to

others as we should like them to do to us; returning good for evil, kindness for ill-will, patience for angry words and deeds. So guide and govern our actions and words, that we may by example and influence lead those about us into every good way. Make us bold to confess Christ, and follow him in all things. May we be earnest in our prayers both together and apart; and incline us to pray more for each other. Above all, keep us from the horrible sin of leading our brother into evil, and hurting or even destroying his soul. Lord, we are not sufficient for these things, but our sufficiency is of thee. Thou who freely gavest thine own Son for us, for his sake, and with him, give us thy Holy Spirit to make and keep us ever thine, for life and death and eternity. Thus may we and all we love meet hereafter in glory; washed and made white and pure in the blood of the Lamb.

Gracious Father, give thy children needful temporal blessings for the time to come. Keep us in safety this night. May slumber possess our bodies, and peace dwell in our hearts and minds. May we rise, if thou spare us till to-morrow, in the full purpose to live to thee, by the help and grace of thy Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY.

O LORD our Saviour Jesus Christ, who for our sakes hast experienced all the woes of human life and suffered bitter death, have mercy upon us. Forgive us our many sins, and hear our unworthy praise and prayer. We would adore thee for thy great grace in loving and pitying such as we are. Make us understand more of thy exceeding goodness, when we think that scarcely for our dearest friend we should dare to die; and yet thou didst freely come and die for us, who were not loving friends but bitter enemies, rebellious children, hating thee and loving evil. If we love thee now, it is because thou didst first love us; because thou hast overcome the sharpness of death for us, hast trampled Satan under foot for us, hast opened the gate of eternal life to all who love thy name. Give us grace to believe with a true heart that all these privileges and hopes are really ours, and may our intercourse with thee now be free and truthful, not clouded by any doubt nor spoilt by any cherished sin.

O Lord, help us on our way in life. We are blind, and often cannot see which way to go. Lord, that our eyes may be opened! And when we know where we should go, we cannot order our steps

aright in thy way: we halt and stumble, and often fall. O Lord, give us perfect soundness, that we may firmly and evenly press on in thy footsteps. We are defiled by sin. Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make us clean. We would humbly touch the hem of thy garment in prayer, knowing that even so thou wilt make us whole. Lord, we believe, help thou our unbelief, and knit our souls in ever warmer gratitude to thee for all thy love.

May we do our duty diligently and faithfully, happy to think that thou art pleased when we do well, and loving to dedicate what we do to thee in prayer. Fit us for our daily work. We would not choose for ourselves, but do thou choose for us, O Lord, those occupations in which we may most glorify thee and promote thy kingdom. Enable us if thou wilt to do something for the souls of our perishing fellow-creatures in this or other lands. And may we all, whatever our lot in life, have grace to serve thee faithfully and live in constant happy communion with thee, being filled with the precious gift which thou hast purchased for us, the Holy Spirit of our God; to whom with thee, O Saviour, and God, thy Father and ours in thee, be everlasting praise, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY.

O LORD, thou God of light and grace, we approach thee this evening with grateful hearts for all thy mercies. We thank thee for the day now past. Truly the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is to behold the sun. But far more we thank thee for the heavenly light which has shone upon us from above, for the Daystar which has risen upon us with healing in its beams, for the revelation of thy dear Son as our Saviour and our God.

Alas, that we have so often despised and turned from the Sun of righteousness, loving darkness rather, because our deeds are evil. We have tried to walk by our own light, to guide our steps by our own wisdom and power; but the light which was in us was darkness, and we have gone astray. And we have too often wilfully chosen the way of the shadow of death. Self and Satan have had power against us and led us captive. We have destroyed ourselves, but in thee is our hope. O Lord, forgive us, have compassion on us and help us. Let not thy divine ray be ever quenched within us, but in spite of ourselves,

and by the power of thy grace, may it shine more and more unto the perfect day.

Keep us in the night watches. The darkness is no darkness to thee, but the night is as clear as the day. May thy holy angels guard us that no evil come nigh us, that only pure heavenly bright thoughts may fill our minds. May we experience in our souls thy never-failing grace, and so have a glimpse by faith of that glorious region where shall be no night, no need of candle nor light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Have mercy on our Queen and country. Be gracious to our dear friends and relations. Reveal thyself to them as their God in love and tender reconciliation. And on all who are in darkness from sin or sorrow, pain or sickness or anguish of heart, make thy face to shine. Visit the dark places of the earth, and as to-morrow's sun shall lighten up thy handywork in nature, so may the light of salvation penetrate into heathen lands, and bring a new joy and life to the creatures whom thy hand has made, and thy Son redeemed. We ask all for ourselves and others only through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, we thy poor erring children bless thy holy name for all thy greatness and goodness.

Not only for what we know of thee now would we magnify thy name, but for all those treasures of wisdom and greatness and glory which are beyond our highest thoughts, for all that shall be disclosed to the adoring hosts of thy redeemed in the day when we shall know thee even as we are known by thee. O our gracious God, hasten the blessed day of thy Son's appearing: gather together speedily thine own out of every clime and tongue: send forth labourers to sow the gospel seed in all lands, and send with them thy Holy Spirit's influences, that the seed sown may spring up and bear fruit. May a great company of all nations and kindreds and people, Jews and Gentiles, adore Christ as their Saviour, and thee as their Father, and the Holy Spirit as their Sanctifier and Guide. Especially may many of our own fellow-subjects in other lands, our fellow-countrymen in this land, our neighbours and relatives and friends, be by thy divine grace made heirs of glory, through the atonement of Christ.

And to the end that thy kingdom may be established in the earth, we pray thee, O Lord, for all rulers and authorities in all lands, and especially for thy servant our beloved Queen, and her royal family, and for all other who have, or shall have, power and influence in these realms; that their efforts may be directed to the promotion of thy glory, the good of thy people, and the spread of thy truth. May they all, dedicating their lives and powers to thee, of thee receive grace, support, and guidance through life, and a peaceful hope in Christ when they die.

And that we thy servants, who wait for thy kingdom, may worthily and ably fulfil our duties to thee and our fellow-creatures, we pray thee to grant us needful supplies of bodily health and strength, of mental vigour, and, above all, of spiritual grace. May our past sins be altogether put away in Christ, and our souls cleansed. May our path be made plain, our weakness strengthened, our ignorance enlightened, our cold hearts quickened, and our enemies ever kept from doing us harm, being put to flight by thy constant presence, for the sake of Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY.

O Lord God Almighty, to whose love we owe our life and health and every thing, we sinners come to cast at thy feet all the burden of our sins, beseeching thee to forgive them, and deliver us from their stain, for Christ's sake.

We are thine, doubly thine; for thou didst make us, and thou hast redeemed us. Yet how little thought do we give to thee; how short a time for prayer and for reading thy word morning and evening, and even that little often shortened more by our indifference or sloth or interest in worldly things. And when as a family or a congregation we meet together to seek a common blessing, how little do our hearts follow and our spirits echo the words of prayer we hear! No wonder that when temptation assails us, we often fall; when difficulties arise, we are perplexed; when opportunities of doing good occur, we fail to use them. Our precious talents, which are thy gifts, we either despise, and neglect the means of improving and using them, or else we are proud of them, as if they were our own, and not lent us by thee, to be used for thy glory. And too often do we use our

powers of thought and speech and action to dishonour thee their giver, to commit sin, and set a bad example, and defile our own souls. Yet thou hast told us to be holy, not to cause our brother to offend or stumble, to watch and pray without ceasing, to set our affection on heavenly things, to look for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

O Lord, forgive us. We are vile, rebellious, self-condemned. But we will not turn away, for to whom should we go? We will cry unto thee in the name of Jesus Christ, until thou have mercy upon us in and for him. He came to seek and save the lost; he died for sinners. His triumph shall be the song of the redeemed. Have compassion on us, and help us. Thou hast not dealt with us according to our sins: O reward us according to our Redeemer's righteousness and his great salvation. Give us thy Holy Spirit to make us holy and happy in thee; and may we build up and encourage each other in thy faith and fear. And to thee be all the honour and all the praise of our redemption from sin and death, and our entrance into eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our only Lord and Saviour. Amen.

SATURDAY.

O LORD JEHOVAH, God supreme over all, teach us to adore thy excellency aright. The heavens and the earth are the work of thy hands, with all that is therein; and thou orderest them in a wonderful manner. The stars roll on in their courses, the seasons wax and wane, the plants grow up and die, the rivers wear the mountain side, and man springs up as the grass and fades away as the flower of the field. Only thou art from everlasting and for ever, God unchangeable. The days and weeks and years pass on, and still thou faintest not, neither art weary. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but thou art the same, as ready to forgive and willing to heal. Thou desirest us thy creatures to turn to thee and live for ever, before the little span of earthly life be passed away. Enable us indeed to look to thee alone in our perishing weakness. Feed us with the bread of life and water of life, that we may never hunger or thirst again. So prepare us for our great change, that sickness may bring no terrors, and the grave no death to us. When our bodies are failing, may we rest fearlessly by faith on Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever.

Thou hast brought us to the close of another week, and we would dedicate its work to thee.

It has been full of failing and sin; but forgive and restore us for Christ's sake. Many have proved by sad experience that a mis-spent Sabbath brings a mis-spent week. Help us therefore to-morrow really to devote the time and powers at our disposal to thee. May we not waste precious hours in idleness and vain conversation; but, remembering that Sabbath privileges may not always be ours, may we use them carefully while we have them. Put into our hearts ways of spending our time both profitably and pleasantly, that we may really love and look forward to thy day as the best and happiest of all the week.

We pray for our Queen, and all in authority in this realm. Fill them with thy Holy Spirit; help them to triumph over the temptations which surround them, and incline them to set an example in honouring thy Sabbaths, and loving thy truth.

Bless the ministers of thy word in their preparation for the morrow, and may their sermons come home with power to the hearts of their hearers, and be backed by the example of a meek and holy life. Bless all thy Church. Especially to those we love, and should pray for, give a Sabbath of Christian joy. May thy day bring rest to the weary, comfort to the sorrowful, relief to the sick, Christ to the sinner, thy peace to all. We ask it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

SECOND WEEK.

SUNDAY.

O LORD GOD, by whose grace we have been given another Sunday together here, we thank thee for this and for all thy gifts. Grant us the spirit of prayer now, that we may conclude the day in a manner acceptable to thee.

Thou knowest, O God, the wasted or mis-spent hours, the weariness of thy word and thy service, which have made this day so little happy, so little blessed to us. Even in thy house, even upon our knees, even while our lips uttered words of prayer and praise, we have given way to wandering earthly thoughts, till our minds have strayed into what is hateful and vile. O God, forgive our sins for Christ's sake, and restore us to thy favour and love. Help us now and always to lift up our hearts to thee in humble confidence, assured of pardon and acceptance in thy beloved Son.

Give thy Holy Spirit to us, and all we love, whom we would especially remember before thee; and sanctify the Sabbath to our good. We have heard thy word read and spoken, and we pray that we may not have heard it in vain. Wherever thy

ministers have faithfully proclaimed thy truth to-day, may their words have sunk into the hearts of men, and may the godless tremble, the careless be awakened, the unbeliever convinced, and the scoffer confounded. May the hungry and thirsty be encouraged to come and take of the water of life freely, without money and without price. May thy dear children be bound closer to thee in love and trust and fervent desire to do thy will and learn thy way more perfectly. And may we share largely in the blessings of the day, growing in kindness and thoughtfulness and love towards one another, and in prayerfulness and humble faith towards thee. When no controlling eye but thine is upon us, may it be our especial desire, by a holy consistency, to commend the sincerity of our religion, and the reality of our eternal hope before thee, who triest the hearts. And in health or sickness, joy or sorrow, success or failure, make us and keep us wholly thine in the days and weeks to come, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

MONDAY.

O LORD our God, truly it is good for us to come before thee; and we thank thee that we have access by the blood of Christ, and that he has promised that those who ask shall receive, those who seek shall find.

We would first ask for pardon for our sins, by which we have failed in our duty, and done much to grieve thee to-day. Forgive us for Christ's sake, and mercifully prevent what we have done from doing harm, by example or otherwise, to any but ourselves. Look on us as thy dear children, reconciled with thee, clothed in thy Son's righteousness, heirs of thy eternal glory. And when we go astray, lead us back; when we doubt, make our way plain; when we stumble, lift us up with thy hand.

May we feel the joy and peace of knowing that thou art ours, that all we want is in thee, that beneath us are thine everlasting arms, around us thy holy angels, within us the Spirit of our Lord. So may we walk without fear or doubt, casting all our care upon thee, making known all our wants and requests in prayer with thanksgiving. Let us

not go on losing blessings as we have done for want of asking. Give us the spirit of prayer: may it be our greatest joy to ask for what we want, and tell thee what we hope and fear. May we pray more for one another, and for our dear friends and relations, and for all, high and low, rich and poor, with whom we may have to do. Teach us how to lift up our hearts to thee in our work and our leisure, at home and abroad, in gladness and sorrow, when we feel temptation coming upon us, or when we desire to do something for thee. May our lives be lives of prayer, and so may we live ever looking to thee, ever trusting in Christ, ever comforted by thy Holy Spirit, ever filled with the love of those about us.

Have mercy on our dear friends and relations, on our country and our Queen. May she rule in righteousness and goodness over a contented, obedient, and God-fearing people. May thy name be known and honoured in the furthest extremities of her dominions.

We now commit ourselves to thee for the night, beseeching thee to commune with us in our thoughts upon our beds, to keep us from harm, and raise us up for thy service to-morrow, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY.

O LORD our God, we draw near, as thou hast told us to do, and present ourselves before thee through Jesus Christ. O that we may be more truly united to him, and to thee in him! As being indeed fellow-heirs with thy dear Son, may we learn to delight in his honour, to long for his kingdom, to yearn for his holiness, and follow his example. So assist us by thy grace that each day may leave us nearer to our Saviour in likeness and in love.

We especially ask thy blessing on the day now closing. Grant that whatever good influences our souls may have received, in thy providence or grace, may be established and rendered lasting, but that every taint of sin they have suffered may be purged away. O God, remember not our offences against us, but remember how thy dear Son shed his precious blood that thy love might freely flow forth to guilty sinners. Glorify him, and exalt the merits of his atonement, not only by putting out of thy remembrance our vile sins, but also by cleansing our hearts from the stain of sin. May we hate it, and fight manfully against it, knowing that in Christ we must have victory, if we persevere unto the end.

Thou knowest our several particular wants and dangers; supply us with all needful and good

things out of thy fulness. Under all circumstances we desire to look to thee alone for help and grace. When we are weak, strengthen thou us; when we are mistaken, set us right. When we are happy, make us watchful; when we are tried, stand by us. Open our eyes to the solemn realities of life, and let us not be dazzled with the gloss of present things, lest we forget our high calling, and our heavenly inheritance.

Make us always patient and obedient both to the commands of thy holy word, and to the will of all who are set over us. When no earthly control is near, may we then most of all control ourselves, knowing that thine eye sees us, and that to thee we must give account for all we do or say. May love and sympathy, holiness and sincerity, industry and sobriety, flourish amongst us.

Have mercy on the children of thy servants. Raise up a seed to serve thee in this land when we are gathered to our fathers. Bless our present and future rulers in Church and State. Prosper all efforts for the good of souls. Send forth more labourers into thy harvest, and give them good success.

Watch over us, and keep us safe to-night; and accept our unworthy prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, another evening brings us the hope of peace and rest; and before we lie down we would with one heart acknowledge thankfully thy goodness to us through the day. Lord, it is good for us to consider how frail we are, for by this we know that thine hand must have been with us, and thy support vouchsafed us every hour of our lives. Thou art about our path and about our bed, and spiest out all our ways, and keepest us from the malice of the enemy when least we think of thee.

Refresh our minds and bodies this night; but O far more we pray thee to revive our wearied souls. Thou only knowest the state of our hearts, the prospect of eternal joy or misery before each one of us. May the seed of a new and spiritual life have a place in every heart; and let not the evil one prevail to take it away, but do thou watch over it, and nourish it with the dew of thy blessing, that it may germinate and grow.

Save us from all fickleness of purpose, lest having no root we endure but for a time; and then when affliction or persecution arise for the word's sake we be offended, and the heavenly plant perish in us.

Protect us from the cares and pleasures of this

world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things, lest entering into our hearts they choke the word and it become unfruitful.

And, O God, if thou hast not already done so, we pray thee to give us what by nature we cannot have, an honest and good heart, that having heard the word we may keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. First, Lord, make us wholly thine ourselves, and then teach us the unspeakable joy of winning souls to thee, of comforting the sorrowful with thy consolations, and confirming the feeble with thy strength.

Pour out thy Holy Spirit upon our dear friends and relations, upon our church and schools and parish. May rich and poor, masters and servants, old and young, happy and afflicted, see the dangers and duties of their positions, and strive with earnest prayer to serve thee faithfully and joyfully, to love thee heartily, and all their fellows for thy sake. Bless our Queen and her Royal Family, and all in authority. Stir up more true religion in our army and amongst our seamen. Unite all Christians in the love of thy word and an earnest promotion of thy glory. May all religious ordinances and opportunities of coming near to thee be more valued, and more blest of thy Spirit. Hear us, we beseech thee in these and all our prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY.

BLESSED Lord God, whose we are, body and soul, created for thy good pleasure and by thy word, and redeemed from destruction by thy Son's most precious blood; give us grace so humbly and diligently to seek thee in this life, that in the last day we may stand before the Son of man with joy, and not with confusion of face.

Lord, we remember many sins done to-day; but how many more have been committed thoughtlessly in the hours when we were busy about earthly things, and quite forgot thee. Night after night our cry must still be the same—forgiveness for the past, for the future a truer penitence, a more tender conscience, deliverance from evil habits, a quicker resort to prayer when sin approaches, a greater desire and love for holiness and thee.

Impart to us, for Christ's sake, thy Holy Spirit, to purify our hearts and enliven our souls in heavenly things. Enable us to feel that he is indeed our portion; that our bodies are his temples where he dwells; and may we fear to transgress and grieve him, to defile with sin the abode of so great and pure a visitor. May we keep our bodies with all diligence, as well as our heart and our tongue. Save us from self-indulgence, sloth, uncleanness, gluttony, and all other lusts of the flesh; and teach

us self-denial and moderation now, lest our evil appetites get a stronger hold upon us. May we prize purity of thought and word and deed most highly. Help us to deny the desire for knowledge of evil as well as good which is in us. May we not be ashamed to be innocent and pure in heart, knowing that such shall see God in glory, when the evil knowledge which Satan holds out to us and men may boast of shall be drowned in endless woe. We would be content with the knowledge of all that is good—of thee, and thy word and will. Show us what inexhaustible treasures of wisdom lie hid in thee. May we take as much delight in thy word as in all manner of riches, may we have more understanding than our teachers because thy testimonies are our study; may we be wiser than the aged, because we keep thy commandments.

We would seek the same spiritual blessings for our absent relations and friends, our parish, our Church and country, which we ask for ourselves. May we and all of ours be kept safely to-night and guided aright to-morrow by thee our God. And be a father to all the fatherless, a God of consolation to the widow, a comforter to them that mourn, a light to those that sit in darkness. Hear us, we pray thee, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY.

O Lord God, we present ourselves to thee to-night, sinners before a Holy God, dust and ashes before the most Mighty Lord, unclean and rebels before one who cannot look upon iniquity. Such we are in ourselves: but we would look from ourselves to Christ, and come to thee in him. And so we kneel before thee rather as his friends, his brethren, redeemed unto thee by his precious blood, clothed in his righteousness, assured of a loving welcome, and free forgiveness, and rich stores of grace for all our need, because he died for us. O most merciful and loving Father, be thou our keeper and protector; O most blessed Son of God wash the heart of each one of us in thy blood, and prepare a place for us in thy glory; O Holy Spirit of God, our Comforter, come and dwell in each of us, and nourish us with all goodness, subdue sin in us and make us perfectly holy.

May the past be blotted out, that our sins may not prove our ruin: and give us grace to live henceforth more to thee. May we be more earnest in our nightly devotions, more holy in our thoughts upon our bed. Enable us to rise to-morrow so early that we may have plenty of time—and O give

us the grace as well as the time—to dedicate ourselves and our work to thee in earnest prayer. And if there should be any one amongst us who does not care for these things, who is living without God, for this world alone, have mercy on him now, and show him the terrible danger that his soul is in, and give him such love towards Christ who died for him, and towards us with whom he lives, that he may forsake his evil way, and make the angels rejoice in heaven by yielding himself up to the Saviour for salvation, and to thy Spirit for renewing grace. And so we will bless thee for thy great goodness, and with one heart will strive to live as Christ's redeemed.

Look in mercy upon all the world. Direct, sanctify, and prosper our Queen, and all Christian rulers. May those who are living in heathen lands speedily hear thy truth. May all who shall hear, or have heard it, have their hearts so opened by thy Spirit as to receive it unto salvation. May those who know and love thee now be more zealous and humble, more pure and sober-minded, more truthful and more wise; and may the bonds of Christian brotherhood bind us all more closely together for the sake of our common Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SATURDAY.

O MOST loving Saviour, who at thy Father's right hand dost make intercession for us thy children, and art, we trust, preparing for us an abode of bliss, look down in mercy and hear us when we call upon thee.

We offer to thee the fruit of our lives and labours, full of sin though they are. Enter not into judgment with us for our wickedness and neglect of thee, but forgive us and smile upon us, and do us good according to our several needs. If any of us have this week overcome any old sin or resisted any sore temptation, to thee be the glory; only bless us and help us to hold the advantage we have gained. If any of us have worked harder or been more attentive to thy word and will, accept our service and prosper us in it. If we have any of us been more regular in our private devotions, or more in earnest in our united family prayers, enable us to feel that it has not been in vain. If any one of us has spoken or done anything to keep his brother out of evil or to lead him into good, or has had his heart drawn out in any act of Christian love, accept the deed and bless it to have a lasting good effect, and to draw us all nearer to one another and to thee. But, alas, in many things we have one or another of us offended; in yielding

to temptation, in idleness and inattention to our duties, in neglect of prayer, in leading our neighbours into evil and losing opportunities of doing good, in giving way to an unkind spirit and ill-temper and unfeeling words. Saviour, by thy precious death put away our sins. Give us true penitence, and grace to turn and do better hereafter.

Keep us from the sins to which we are most exposed; from thoughtlessness, vanity, and the fear of scorn; from sloth and self-indulgence, covetousness and anger; gluttony, uncleanness; from lying and disobedience, and all unkindness. May we do everything not with eye service as unto men, but thoroughly and truthfully, as unto thee, who knowest the secrets of our hearts.

And that we may so spend the coming week, enable us to begin it aright. We shall be tempted to waste or misuse the Sabbath hours. But, O thou who hast been tempted in all points as we are, succour and deliver us, teaching us to spend the day aright. Make our prayers and praises acceptable through thyself. Provide for us and all thy Church suitable food of exhortation on the morrow, and pour out thy Spirit upon thy people and thy ministers abundantly. Prepare us, and all we love, to follow thee cheerfully through the grave and gate of death to a glorious inheritance in heaven, there to reign with thee everlastingly, world without end. Amen.

THIRD WEEK.

SUNDAY.

BLESSED be thy name, most gracious God, for another day of holy rest, of Christian worship, of prayer and praise and Gospel instruction. Though we have wasted much of it, and lost much good, yet we trust it has not been altogether in vain to us. May the good we have heard be remembered, and the thoughts and resolutions and knowledge put into us by thy Holy Spirit produce a real result in our lives.

Lord, may we learn to love and care for each other more, both in earthly and spiritual things. May the blessings we asked for in thy house be vouchsafed to all who worshipped with us, and not to ourselves alone. May we more often and earnestly in our private prayers think of one another, thanking thee when we have heard a word spoken or seen a deed done for Christ's sake, and praying for one another when we see any sin or failing or trouble taking hold, or any good habit or holy disposition waning away.

Be gracious, O Lord, to each and all of us in this parish. Bless our minister, give him wisdom and zeal, health and strength, and may his mind

be ever stayed on thee. May all in authority have grace to exercise it with kindness and firmness, fairness and discretion, as those who must render an account to thee. May those who hold a lower place be humble and diligent, pure in heart, kind and forbearing in conduct. May the children grow up in thy faith and fear, and honour their parents; and, may all, rich and poor alike be faithful to their heavenly calling, bearing one another's burdens, fighting against sin, pursuing after holiness, trusting only in Christ.

We would especially ask thy blessing on our own house. O God, may we all, masters and servants, live in love and charity, and in thy faith and fear. May we fear thy displeasure, and count thy favour the greatest blessing we can have. Let no one amongst us grieve thee, and tempt thee to leave us, but may we try to help one another in the right way. And when we fail, give us grace to come back in penitence at once, and not to tempt thy Spirit by delay. Give us diligence and faithfulness and a fair success in life, and may sickness and evil be far from our dwelling.

Bless our dear relations and friends, giving them all things needful both for soul and body. And be with us to keep us during the night watches for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY.

O LORD, thou God of love, pour down upon us now the Spirit of grace and supplication: look not upon our manifold offences, but help us to approach thee as thy reconciled children in Christ Jesus.

Not as we love thee dost thou love us, O Lord. Even for those who forget thee, who day by day vex thy Spirit and dishonour thy name, does thy bright sun arise and thy glorious world of nature smile; thou givest us all things richly to enjoy, even when we abuse those very gifts by sin.

May we learn from thee so to love one another. Teach us not only to think of and try to do good to those whom we like, and who repay our kindness, for even wicked men love those that love them. Help us to love and honour all men. And if any of those about us treat us with unkindness or contempt, if either carelessly or intentionally they cause us pain, if they mistake our motives or disregard our wishes, or even if they tempt us to sin, O God, may we be kept from bitter feelings and retaliation. May we remember how we have grieved and wronged thee, and yet thou hast done us good and loved us; and may we try to love them, and deny ourselves for their sakes, and seek their welfare even in small things; for the sake of our Master, who sought a dreadful death that we

rebels and offenders might have pardon and happiness. Thus may we glorify thee by our Christian behaviour, and if it may be so, bring home to Christ some of the souls for which he laid down his life.

And as thy love has been extended to all men, for all men we would lift up our prayer. Thy name, O Lord, is known to thousands who do not know thee. Have mercy on this land, and all Christian lands, and may we be what we profess to be—followers of our Lord, trusting to his atonement, bound together in bonds of a common faith and hope and love. And have pity on those who still live beyond the sound of the Gospel, who have not the means of grace, and therefore cannot have the hope of glory. Enlarge the number of thy messengers to the heathen, strengthen their faith and increase their wisdom. Give them utterance with power. If thou hast any whom we love for that blessed work, O God, prepare them daily, by the dealings of thy providence and the workings of thy grace, hereafter to proclaim a Saviour's love and a heavenly hope to men in distant lands. Pour out largely of thy Spirit upon all flesh, prepare the way of the Lord to reign in every heart.

We commit ourselves, with all our hopes and fears, our wants and weaknesses, into thy hands to-night, and ask a Father's blessing, for Christ's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY.

O ALMIGHTY and merciful God, who enablest us to come before thee and offer acceptable prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank thee for this unspeakable privilege, and pray that we may use it aright now.

Many and great indeed are thy mercies in placing us as thou hast done. All around us calls us to serve thee. Thou hast placed us in a Christian land, at a time when thy blessed truth is known, and the name of thy Son had in reverence as the hope of eternal life. Thou hast given us Christian friends, and a Christian home; while many only hear thy name in blasphemy and see thy laws broken. Thou hast set us our work in life, where thy truth is known and loved, and thy name honoured. Lord God, forgive our indifference and sin, and enable us to be more grateful for these and all thy mercies. When we consider what manner of persons we, who are so highly favoured, ought to be, and what we are, we are ashamed and confounded. For Christ's sake restore our souls: and may we not only hate our sins, but strive against them, and overcome them. Before thee and before angels and men we stand as those whom thou hast most blessed. Help us to live accordingly; to

fly from sin, to resist evil habits, to love thee and thy children, to follow after righteousness, faith, meekness, soberness. May we live in all things as preparing for an eternal life with our Lord Jesus Christ; may we mind the interests and happiness of those around us, knowing that thou will mind ours. May our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works and glorify, not us, but thee our heavenly Father, who enablest us by thy Holy Spirit.

O Lord, have mercy on the friends and relations thou hast given us. May the nearest and dearest friend to each of us and of them be our Lord Jesus Christ. May they and we have peace and joy in him, living with him now by faith, and hereafter rejoicing evermore in his glorious presence.

Watch over us this night. When we forget ourselves and ours in slumber, do not thou forget us. May Satan's snares and malice be warded off. May sickness and accident and death be kept from us, if it be thy will. And when we rise to-morrow, may our work and pleasure, our plans and circumstances be all arranged and blessed by thee, and tend to thy honour and glory.

We ask every good thing for ourselves and ours only for the sake of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY.

MOST gracious God, who dost order all things for the good of thy people, and from thy throne of glory rememberest them in their low estate, have compassion on us and help us.

We have erred and gone astray like lost sheep, do thou forgive and restore us: bring us into the right way, and teach us better how to walk therein. May we remember that we are but strangers and pilgrims here, passing through this wilderness life for a little time, and then to reach a better country, that is, a heavenly. May we keep our eyes and desires from earthly objects, denying our worldly interests and affections, lest they should keep us back in our journey, or lead us aside from the road. O heavenly Father, we are but feeble travellers in the path of life, we have neither strength nor experience in ourselves. But may thy presence go with us; and so give us at last thy rest. Shelter us as in a pillar of cloud from the noonday sun, the glare and heat and toil of middle life; and in times of darkness and difficulty be as a pillar of fire to light us on our way. When we hunger, feed us with angels' food, whose meat and drink it is to do thy will; give us Christ the bread of life, and may he satisfy our yearning hearts, lest we lust after fleshly indulgences, and

perish. When we thirst, supply us with the living water which flows from the Rock of Ages, smitten for our sakes. When we are faint and buffeted, bowed down with the struggle of life, may we find the Saviour as a hiding-place from the wind and a covert from the tempest, as rivers of water in a dry place, as a shadow of a great rock in this weary land. When our sins bring us into trouble, may we look to him, as he is lifted up on the cross for our sakes, and may our wounded souls be forgiven and healed. When we pass through the waters of adversity be thou with us, and through the rivers may they not overflow us; but may we have comfort in thinking that thou hast made the depths of the sea a way for thy ransomed to pass over unto eternal life. And whenever it please thee to lead us into the valley of the shadow of death, may we fear no evil, thou being with us. When the tabernacle of this body is being dissolved, may we look for a new and lasting city having foundations, whose builder and maker thou art. And there may we be joined by all those whom we have known and loved on earth, in everlasting glory. So mercifully guide us through our pilgrimage, and bring us safe home to thee at last for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

THURSDAY.

O Lord God Almighty, accept, we beseech thee, through the merits of thy dear Son, the thanks and praise which we offer thee for all thy mercies. Thou dost support and protect us by day and by night; by thee we have been upheld ever since we were born. But above all, thou dost set a watch against our souls' unseen enemies, thou dost foil the tempter in us, thou dost arouse the protests of our conscience within, and awaken desires after that which is good. And we know that all this springs from the great love which sent thy dear Son to die for us, and is an earnest in us, and to us, of that redeeming grace which we trust and pray may be effectual to our eternal salvation. We praise thee, O our God and Saviour, and adore the riches of thy wondrous love. This much we ask in earnest reliance on the intercession of our risen Lord, that all thy grace may not be in vain for us; that the miserable carnal appetites and love of the world, and pride of life which enthral our fallen nature may not prevail to our ruin. Help us, good Lord, against ourselves. Let us not dream away the precious days of life in carelessness and sin, but quicken us in every heavenly desire, and in all holy living. O thou who hast redeemed us by thy precious blood, take us for thine own. Constrain

us, by whatever means thou wilt, to be wholly thine. Give largely to us of that very Spirit which dwelt without measure in thyself, that we may desire above all things to do our heavenly Father's will, whether in labour or in suffering, and may not rest from efforts to draw others round us into thy way. May all we in this family and household be one in thee, and encourage one another in all good works.

Bless all thy Church, and especially that branch of it established in this land. Give thy grace to our Queen, our bishops at home and abroad, our clergy and their people. Bless the nobility and all in authority. Give them wisdom to rule, and grace to rest on Christ. Have mercy on our soldiers and sailors, may they live in the fear of God, and trust in the Lord Jesus.

We ask of thee, O Father, for those we love, the same spiritual blessings which we ask for ourselves. For them and ourselves we ask such success, happiness, and earthly wealth as thou seest good, and none beside. Put away all our many shameful sins, and let them not stand between us and thee. May we feel that we have a reconciled Father's care and love while we lie down to rest, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY.

O God, our God, thine excellencies are beyond our understanding; but thou comest to us as a God of love and tender mercy, and so we would look up to thee and call upon thy name.

But, alas, it is often hard for us to turn to thee. While our lips utter, or our ears hear words of prayer or praise, our wandering hearts are cold and worldly still. And so we go away to meet the trials and temptations of life again with no fresh strength from above. Thine hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor thine ear heavy that it cannot hear; but our iniquities have separated between us and our God, and our sins like a thick cloud have hidden thy face from us. For Christ's sake forgive us our sins. Strip off the evil habits that enchain us, take away the stony hearts which will not feel thy love, and give us hearts of flesh. Destroy in us the old man of sin, with its busy interest in fleeting affairs and pleasures of this world, its ready ear to listen to Satan's suggestions, its pride and falseness, its unkindness and disobedience, its self-indulgence and uncleanness. And instead, give us thy Holy Spirit to make us thine in life and conduct, in hope and love. Change our inmost nature as well as our outward conduct. May we not only abstain from unchari-

table words and deeds, from lying, from unruly or selfish or impure acts; but may we learn to hate and fly from every unkind thought, every inward murmur of pride or disobedience, every selfish desire, every secret impure imagination. May we ever cherish perfect openness and sincerity in act and word. May we never deceive our neighbour in sport, nor find pleasure in any deceit at all, knowing that it is all of Satan the father of lies, and that thou delightest in singleness and sincerity of heart.

But while we pray for these things, we feel shame to think how miserably we have grieved and dishonoured thee by our sinfulness in time past. Marvellous is thy love, which does not desert or give us up, but only seeks to do us good, and enable us to conquer in Jesus Christ. We would try and resolve anew in thy strength. And if we fail—for there is no man that sinneth not—may we not lose heart, but come again and again to thee for forgiveness and new strength, and again and again strive and watch and pray against the enemy, till at length, after a life-long battle, by thine infinite mercy we receive a crown of victory, and a joyful peace where no sin or temptation can ever come near us, with thy dear Son Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Intercessor. Amen.

SATURDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank thee that thou hast safely brought us to the close of another week, continuing to us life and health, food and raiment, making our way plain, and our duties easy. From thee comes every good gift: enable us to use for thee, and dedicate to thee, all the powers and opportunities which thou givest us.

Forgive our manifold offences for thy dear Son's sake. We have broken thy law, and justly incurred punishment, but our hope is in thy mercy and grace in Christ Jesus. Deliver us from the guilt and power of sin, help us to throw off evil habits; and when sinful thoughts and inclinations and the temptations of Satan assail us till we know not where to turn, help us to turn to thee, lifting up our hearts to thee that thou mayest save us, and put a different spirit within us. So may we faithfully strive after holiness until at last we be conformed to the likeness of thy dear Son.

Have mercy upon our absent relations and on all whom we love, or who love us. Hear their prayers for our welfare, and our intercessions for them. May we be kept from sin, brought back when we go astray, strengthened in all good, made happy, and the cause of happiness and comfort to those who love us. Incline the young to honour and love

their parents, obeying not only their commands but their wishes, seeking to please them by diligence and Christian conduct, and in every way. To those who have no longer a father or a mother on earth, be thou more than father or mother, drawing their hearts to thee in heaven. [Some of us have friends and relations in distant lands: may they not be distant from thee. As we behold the same sun with them, so may we ever draw grace and help from thee the same God, hope in the same Saviour, and bring forth the fruits of the same Holy Spirit in our lives.] May we adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

We pray thy blessing on each and all of us in this house, that as a family we may live in happiness diligence and concord. Keep us from sickness and death, but far more preserve us from evil. May none of us bring disgrace upon himself and his friends by any open shameful sin; and may none of us by allowing secret evil in his heart suffer the foundation of our prosperity in thy favour to be undermined. Bless too our parish, its minister, and his flock, and thy whole Church. May to-morrow be a day of blessing to us and all thy people, may thy true word be acceptably and faithfully preached, and all Christians bound more together in a common love. We ask all for Christ's sake. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK.

SUNDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, giver of all the good things which we so richly enjoy, we thank thee for another peaceful Sabbath, with its means of grace, and rest from care and labour.

Accept, we beseech thee, the prayers which we and others have offered in thy house. We have been sadly inattentive and careless during the services of to-day, thinking of other things when we should have had our hearts with our voices lifted up to thee. Many things have been asked for as if we neither expected nor wished our prayers to be fulfilled. Forgive our great sin and folly for thy dear Son's sake; and answer us according to the fulness that is in him, not as we deserve. Give us spiritual blessings, grace to strive and persevere, to watch and pray until we conquer; grace to love thee and thy holy word, and to find in it new treasures of mercy and truth. And fill us with brotherly love towards one another; may we try to help and do good to those about us in every way. Give us temporal mercies, food and clothing, health and cheerfulness, success in our work and the approval of those we love. And, while we pray thee to give us good things, we look to thee alone to

keep us from evil. Suppress within us the risings of unholy desires, unchristian tempers, and deceitful words and deeds. May we forgive others as we trust thou hast forgiven us. May we cherish no discontent or malice or pride in our hearts. Keep us from vanity and levity. Teach us to regard the passing hours seriously, as time given us to prepare for eternity. Let us not go with the multitude to do evil, but dispose us to make thy pure law our daily study and rule of conduct. May we never try to persuade ourselves that what we wish to do is right, when conscience tells us it is wrong. Lord, we are weak and beset with dangers. Give thine angels charge concerning us to keep us, and by thy Holy Spirit cleanse our hearts from all impurity and fill them with divine grace.

Be with our dear relations and friends, doing them good and binding their hearts to thee. Have pity on all the weak and needy and suffering tonight; lighten their burdens, supply their wants, and relieve their sorrows; give them the peace of Christ, which none can take away. Raise up the fallen and the faithless. Convince them of their sin, and lead them to the Saviour of sinners.

Thus may this Sabbath leave a blessing on us and all men during the coming week, and for all time; for thy dear Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

MONDAY.

O Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who hast purchased to thyself by thine own death a peculiar people, whose life is hid in thee, who feed upon thee by faith, whose meat and drink it is to do the will of their Father which is in heaven: we yield thee most hearty thanks for all the store of grace and mercy which thy death has opened up, and thy resurrection and ascension has assured to us. When we were sinners without hope, without even desire for better things, thou didst interfere to save our souls at such a cost. And now thou art exalted in heaven as Lord over all: yet thou willest to bear in thy glorified body the prints of the nails and the cruel spear, because of thy great love to sinful man, whom thou hast raised from so low a depth of misery to so excellent a hope of glory with thyself.

Teach us to feel aright that it is our honour and happiness, as well as our duty, to be wholly thine. We would yield ourselves up to thee, body soul and spirit, that thou mayest wash us in thy blood, keep us by thy power, guide us with thy hand, and hereafter bring us to glory. But we would not only in words give ourselves up to thee thus. We want thee to help us to spend all our powers and time and resources for thee; to give wholly to thee what

so many use for their own pleasure enjoyment and profit. Thou lovest to see us happy: may we rejoice in thee always. In our work, in our secret thoughts, in our intercourse with one another, as well as in religious duties, may it be our fixed purpose to do all for thee heartily cheerfully and sincerely. May we fight against sin with vigour, and never be discouraged, knowing thou art on our side. Blessed Lord, we want to dedicate our whole lives to thy service. Give us such work for thee as may best enable us to show our conviction that we owe all to thee, and our resolution to give all to thee. Something we can all do with our time and with our money: help us to do it heartily and gladly, to cultivate the habit of sacrificing whatever we have to thee, who gavest thyself for us.

And as we cannot do these things of ourselves, give us thy Holy Spirit, that we may go on in a power and wisdom which is not our own, and daily grow in grace and faith and love.

We would ask thy special blessing on our dear friends and relations, on the sorrowing and the desolate, the sick and the dying. Draw them in bonds of love to thyself on earth, and bring them and us to thy presence in joy hereafter, there to reign with thee, world without end. Amen.

TUESDAY.

Most merciful Father, whose goodness is our life, whose favour is our joy, whose eternal presence is our hope of glory, look down in love upon us for our Saviour's sake. Pity thy rebellious children who love thee still. Turn our hearts and purge us from all our sin. Teach us to place all our hope of heaven in Jesus Christ who died for us. May we find in him a friend to whom we can tell all our need, and whom we can never seek in vain. May we perfectly know him as thy word reveals him; and help us to regulate all our conduct by his example, and not by the world's rules.

O Lord, increase our faith. Teach us to do what we think to be right, and to leave wrong things undone, for thy sake, in the firm persuasion that though we may seem foolish to men, yet thou wilt uphold us, and make our folly better than the world's wisdom. May we never by hesitation lose opportunities of doing thy will; but as soon as ever we see what is right, give us grace to do it. And that we may perceive and know what we ought to do, give us, O Lord, thy Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. Give us wisdom in all difficulties. As our day, so may our strength be. In health and success fill our hearts with thankfulness. In sorrow or failure cheer and comfort us with thy

spiritual consolations and the sense of thy approval. In sickness give us patience, and if it please thee, enable us then with unclouded gaze to see Christ as ours, and in joyful trust to hold fast his promises. Help us always to resist temptation in the power of thy word and Holy Spirit. Give us prayerful hearts, and may we both earnestly desire and confidently expect what we pray for in Christ's name.

Shew mercy to our respective friends and relations, according to their several wants. May we all be united in thee by faith. Visit with thy favour and grace our Queen and all the Royal family. Bless our church and country, and enable us under all circumstances to do our duty towards them faithfully. May we never forget that we are best serving thee when we are diligently doing the work thou hast given us to do.

Bless us in our rest to-night, and sanctify us to thy faithful service to-morrow, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY.

ALMIGHTY God, who art full of compassion towards the helpless and fallen, look upon us for thy dear Son's sake, and succour us in our great need.

We have promised by our sponsors in Baptism, and (most of us) have since taken this promise solemnly on ourselves, that we would wage war under the banner of Christ against the world, the flesh, and the devil. We have openly entered his service, and pledged ourselves to continue his soldiers unto our life's end. We know that we are fighting on the side of our own happiness, our own welfare; and that if we lose the battle we must lose body and soul in hell. And yet, Lord, we fight but faintly; we are not watchful enough, nor resolute enough. We are often inclined to make peace with our great enemy, and even to prefer his service to thine; but we beseech thee to preserve us from any such wicked thought. Thou hast most graciously admitted us among thy people; may we always be thankful for this inestimable privilege, and love to be called soldiers of Christ. Make his strength perfect in our weakness. When our own spirit fails, may thy Holy Spirit contend within us, and triumph in us. Give us courage and patience, zeal and perseverance and wisdom; for all these gifts come from thee. May we endure hardness as good soldiers of

Jesus Christ. Arm us with the whole armour of God, the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, and the shield of faith. May our loins be ever girt about with truth, and our feet swift to run wherever thou shalt call us. May we strive resolutely, as those who know that in Christ they *must* conquer; yet watchfully, as knowing our enemy's great strength.

We desire to thank thee for all thy servants who have already fought the good fight, who have kept the faith, and are now at rest, awaiting the crown laid up for them against the day of Christ. May their example animate us to press on in their steps. While we desire, first of all, grace to conquer the enemy in our own hearts, enable us also to oppose him, and to magnify the great Captain of our salvation in the world around us. Give an especial blessing to all who are unfurling the banner of Christ in the regions where hitherto Satan has reigned undisturbed. Grant that many in heathen lands may gladly flock to the standard of their great deliverer, and hail Christ Jesus as their Saviour and their King. And may thy kingdom come quickly; and we and all we love be found in that day among the armies of the living God, through the mighty working of thy Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY.

ALMIGHTY God, who dwellest above the heavens in glory unapproachable; who hast created all things for thy pleasure, and sustainest them for thy glory, look down from thy throne in mercy on us thy unworthy creatures, whom thou hast taught to call thee Father, whom through thy dear Son thou delightest to regard as thy children still, though we have rebelled against thee.

We would praise thee for thine exceeding glory, O God, our God. Far beyond our highest thoughts are all thy great perfections. We cannot see thee as thou art, yet still we would magnify thy name for those things which thou hast taught us of thyself. Though thou art so high and holy, yet to us thou art a Father of love and pity, a forgiving cleansing sanctifying Redeemer. Thou dost not speak to us in thunder from heaven, out of the midst of the consuming fire or the thick darkness; but in Jesus Christ thou hast vouchsafed to become even as we are, to speak to us in human voice, to draw us with human love, to win us to thyself by more than human patience and meekness and sympathy. What shall we render thee for this thy unspeakable goodness? We desire to approach thee with hearts full of adoration and praise.

O for more grace to hear the call of Christ, and

to lay it to heart! Help us to see the world as he saw it. Teach us to regard its pleasures and sorrows, its hopes and fears, as too fleeting, too little satisfying for immortal beings like ourselves. May we with the steadfast eye of faith follow our risen and ascended Lord across the darkness of the grave into the glories of eternity; and there find with him what shall engage and satisfy our highest hopes, our noblest desires. In perfect confidence in him may we find freedom from distracting anxieties and doubts; and thus devote all our faculties and energies to his service, in the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Make us feel more deeply the weight of gratitude we owe thee, and may our hearts be filled with gladness and praise. May no sacrifice seem great if made for thy sake, no efforts burdensome if they tend to promote thy glory. Accept us all who kneel before thee now. Fit us more and more, by thy providence, and by thy Holy Spirit working in us, to be vigorous, efficient, humble servants of thine through life, and to sing thy praises in eternity.

We commit ourselves and all we love to thy care anew this night. Pour out on us all spiritual blessings, and shield us from every danger, for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, most holy and most merciful, we would come before thee with deep humility and contrition of heart for all our miserable sinfulness. Yet how can we doubt but that even such as we are, when pleading a Saviour's merits, and sprinkled with his atoning blood, shall find acceptance and mercy.

O that we could worthily deplore the accursed sins which cost thy dear Son the agony of death upon the cross: that we could adequately glorify the love which planned and carried through the redemption of our perishing souls! Blessed Saviour, while we contemplate thy amazing sacrifice, teach us to measure rightly the consequences and the cost of sin, and to loathe it in our inmost souls. Let us never think lightly of any sin whatever, but earnestly and constantly strive to do that which shall please thee, and so to shew our gratitude for thy great gift.

And we beseech thee, Almighty God, to convince our souls by the indwelling grace of thy Holy Spirit, that in the finished work of Christ alone, a full atonement has been made for all sin. Preserve us from the folly and wickedness of adding aught to that work, or of doubting its full and perfect efficacy. We would now and at all times

come before thee in Christ alone, and while we confess our continual grievous sins, we implore and believe that thou wilt blot them out for ever in the blood of the new covenant. Remember them not against us for our Saviour's sake: but create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us, that we may be a holy people unto thee, in Jesus Christ. May the love which shone forth in him towards us be reflected in our lives and characters. Teach us to live for others, and for thee. May we deny ourselves and take up our cross daily and follow Christ.

And we would remember before thee all orders of men in thy Church, and all in authority, especially our beloved Queen, that they may constantly endeavour in their public functions and their private life to promote thy glory, and uphold the simple faith of Christ crucified.

Bring in the godless and careless of the Christian world. Gather to thyself the outcasts of the heathen. Convert thy ancient people Israel from their obstinate rejection of the Messiah. O that the sufferings of Christ may be remembered before thee for us and for all men, and that he may see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied, for the sake of the same Jesus Christ, thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we pray thee to be present at this our evening prayer. Quicken our hearts to pray, and bow down thine ear to hear us, for our Saviour's sake.

Many have been thy mercies during the week past, mercies to our bodies and to our souls, mercies to us individually, and to our families, our house, our school. We desire to refer every happiness, every success, every escape from evil, every opportunity of giving pleasure, or of doing good, to thy kind care and love. Forgive us when thy mercies have been slighted, or the openings thou givest us neglected. Make us more sober and watchful, ready to seize every occasion of glorifying thee by doing thy will.

Accept through Christ whatever we may any of us have done during the week, in any measure according to thy will. Our best works are full of sin; if we had done all we should be but unprofitable servants. But thy mercies in Christ are so great, that we will venture to present before thy footstool our weak and sin-stained efforts, beseeching thee to accept them, not as purchasing for us a reward, but as tokens of our gratitude for a Sa-

viour's love, and of our wish to learn and do thy will. Teach us, O Lord; sanctify us by the Holy Ghost; make us more worthy of the great salvation which is ours in Christ Jesus. May our conversation be such as becomes thy day. May we be refreshed and encouraged to-morrow in our spiritual life. Give us prayerful hearts, souls panting for thy word, thoughts turned heavenward. May the prayers we shall join in, and the sermons we shall hear—above all, may thy blessed word prove a lasting help and comfort to us.

Bless our Queen and country. May we all, from the highest to the lowest, learn to love and cherish thy Sabbaths more. May our dear friends all partake of a Sabbath blessing to-morrow. Support thy ministers in their work. Soften many hard hearts, and open many deaf ears to receive thy truth and love it. May the Sabbath bring a word of comfort to the sad, peace to the weary, strength to the weak, pardon to the penitent.

We present our prayers, relying only for acceptance in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIFTH WEEK.

SUNDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, who hearest prayer and acceptest those who come before thee in the name of Jesus Christ, we humbly offer thee our hearty thanks for the blessings and privileges of the past Sabbath.

Yet, Lord, if thou shouldest call us to account for our neglect and misdoings, we should never be allowed to enjoy again the privileges we have used to-day so carelessly. If thy word were taken from us, if we were prevented from ever again going with those who love thee to worship at thy house, it would only be what we deserve. We should then learn to prize thy Sabbath gifts when we had to bemoan the loss of them. But O, help us to value them while we have them. Forgive our coldness and inattention in public worship, the worldliness of our conversation, the deadness of our prayers, the weariness of thy word, to which our evil hearts have yielded. Not only forgive us for the past, but, O God, by thy Holy Spirit change our hearts, and so influence us that henceforth we may cleave

to thee more, and may make thy day a great and precious opportunity of drawing closer to our Saviour, and gaining a warmer love towards him, and growing less interested in this world's pleasures and sinful indulgencies.

May the feeble prayers and praises presented to thee be accepted in Christ, beyond all that we dare hope. And may the words of thy Book, and of thy ministers, which we have heard, be sanctified to our good, in spite of wandering thoughts. May the Sabbath prove to us a day of real and lasting blessing. And, while it humbles us at the thought of our shortcomings, may it help us to watch and pray, to rejoice in thy service, to fight against sin, and to guide our way by the daily study of thy holy Word during the coming week.

Keep us, and all dear to any of us, safe this night. May our waking thoughts soar heavenward, and our sleep refresh us for thy work and will; for the sake of thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY.

Most glorious and gracious God, we venture to approach thee this evening in spite of our many past sins, and our present coldness of heart. Thou hast commanded us to seek thy face at all times. In the name of Jesus Christ we come and present ourselves, not as we should be, but as we are, miserable sinners. Thy dear Son died to save us; O then accept us, and freely forgive us our sins. Warm our hearts towards thee, give us the joy of thy countenance, and a peaceful assurance of thy love.

We would lay before thee our supplications and intercessions on behalf of all men. Turn thou, O good Lord, the wicked from the error of their way. Open the eyes that are blind, and the ears that are stopt, that men may hear Christ's blessed invitation, and come all weary and heavy laden with their sins, and looking upon him may find forgiveness and deliverance and peace. Send out thy light and truth among the heathen, raise up faithful messengers to bear the tidings of a free salvation unto the ends of the earth, and bless their labours with much success. May all who call themselves Christians so learn of Christ, and so

put on Christ, that their light may shine before men in love and faith, in holiness and fervent zeal. May thy true people leave all mutual jealousies and disputes, and with one accord, in full purpose of heart, combine to make war against sin and Satan, and to seek the salvation of perishing souls. And may they all agree in the truth of thy Holy Word, and diligently and prayerfully study it.

Bless all who govern in Christian lands, both in their own souls and in the influence of their rule over their subjects. Especially bless our beloved Queen. May she long be spared for the welfare of her subjects; and may she so cast her cares and sins on her crucified Saviour that she may never fear to die. May the future Monarchs of this realm be so chosen out and sanctified by thee, that their reigns may redound to thy glory and the people's welfare.

And now we ask for thy safe keeping during this night. In thy hands we would fear nothing; and on thee will we rest, only in the merits of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we approach thee this evening to praise thee for all the benefits we daily and hourly receive at thy gracious hands. Thy mercy sustains our life, and supplies all our needs. We thank thee for the health we enjoy, for our freedom from pain and sickness and sorrow, as well as from cares and perplexities. We bless thee for the light and knowledge we possess, the means of knowing and serving thee, the safeguards against many temptations, the helps towards holy living. We thank thee too for our country, and the prosperity and blessing which attend it: we rejoice to think that thou hast chosen it for thyself, to put thy name here, to make thy peculiar favour shine upon it, to make it a blessing to all the nations of the earth. Truly, none are more favoured and blest than we. And yet we are not better, nor holier, nor more worthy than others. Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give praise, for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake in Jesus Christ.

Only help us to do what we have not hitherto done; to acknowledge our high and undeserved privileges, and to live worthily of them. If we could live in the least degree as thy mercies encour-

age and invite us to do, how pure and holy, kind and gentle, meek and patient, earnest and sincere should we be in all our dealings. O add to thy other mercies, most gracious God, the forgiveness of our sins and ingratitude, and continue thy goodness towards us the sheep of thy pasture.

Have mercy on those who lack the blessings we enjoy. Do thou send comfort to those who need it; strengthen the weak, provide for the needy, enlighten the ignorant, and awaken the careless. Give us grace, as far as in us lies, by sympathy and almsgiving, and most by prayer, to help those who want help, even as thou hast supplied all our need by giving thine own Son for us. Especially bless all those we love. May loving-kindness and mercy follow them all the days of their life, and may they know and recognise thee as the source of all real good. We beseech thee to accept these our prayers and praises for the sake of Jesus Christ, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY.

Most mighty Lord and everlasting God, who from thy Father's glorious throne didst come down in love and pity to make thyself one with fallen man, and in human guise to work out man's redemption: we would ever bless thee for thy wondrous work, and the blessed hope which draws us back to a reconciled Father through thee.

Increase in us, O Lord, the conviction that all our hope of heaven and of holiness must only be in thee and thy great work. Though the flesh rebels, and the desires of our hearts run after a thousand other things, yet, gracious Lord, put them all aside, and take us for thine own; mould us as the potter moulds the clay, for the purposes of thy grace. Wipe off from the tablets of our hearts all that sin and self have written there, and trace with thine own finger all that thou wilt, thy thoughts, thy words, thy purposes. We are always apt to copy what we see to like in men, and aiming at some human standard. But be thou, O Lord our Saviour, thou, O Man Christ Jesus, the pattern altogether lovely to our heaven-taught sense; and may we so covet thy likeness, and affect thy company, that men may see thee in us, and take know-

ledge of us in our daily life, that we walk with thee indeed.

And, Lord, we would fain be with thee one day where thou art. Lead us then in thy way. Thou art very bountiful to us. Thou hast hemmed in our path with mercies, and strewn it with pleasant things. And we would not think lightly of these thy gifts, but praise thee for them all, and thankfully enjoy them as from thee. Yet, O Saviour, it was for more than this that thou didst lay down thy life for us. Help us in all our present lot to look on to the great end. May that be our real concern. We would leave the way to thee, so thou wilt bring us home at last. Thine be it to appoint the instruction, the probation, the discipline, so only thou wilt at length present us to thy Father as those whom thou hast loved, and taught, and kept to thine own glory.

Hear us, O Lord, we pray thee, for all around us here, and all we love elsewhere. So guard and guide us while we live, that we may hereafter be one family in heaven in thee, O Saviour, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

THURSDAY.

O LORD GOD, hear us, and teach us, as we kneel, to pray to thee to-night. We have not deserved thy favour and grace, for our conduct to-day, as well as our inward thoughts, has often been quite unworthy of our Christian calling. We have given way to the fear of men, speaking and acting to be seen of them, instead of always trying to show forth by a holy life the blessed effects of the knowledge and fear of thee. But for Christ's sake forgive us, for we desire to trust only in him. Satan tries to remind us of good things we have said and done, but they are only good compared with the rest of our own conduct: in thy sight, and compared with the life of our Lord on earth, they are full of evil; and only for his sake can we pray thee to accept and forgive both us and them.

O what glorious news hast thou given us in thy Word; that thy dear Son did really so love us in our low estate that he died for our sins; that he suffered all the weight and curse of evil and of death, that we might never suffer it ourselves. May this wonderful pledge of his love make us bold to come to him for all we want, and watchful to show our gratitude by doing his commandments

and loving one another. Through him we are told that we may obtain from thee the precious gift of the Holy Spirit. For his sake therefore vouchsafe to us the indwelling presence of the Holy Ghost to influence and control our hearts. In him we are told all fulness dwells. And we lack wisdom and purity, and humility, and love, and zeal, and many other Christian graces. O may we never lack them long, but so seek them in Christ, and so plainly ask for them by the guidance of thy Word, that we may get them to the honour of thy name and our own comfort.

Help us to live more constantly in remembrance of thee, rejoicing in a very present God and Father, accepting all the events of life at thy hands with thankfulness, and striving to turn them to thy praise. Shew us the way wherein we should walk, for we lift up our souls unto thee. Keep us in safety this night, as well as our dear friends and relations. Give us prayerful hearts before we lie down, that we may each make known to thee our peculiar wants, and seek thy peculiar grace to supply them. And may we rise to-morrow with souls full of desire towards thee and thy service and thy children, and be prospered through the day for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY.

O LORD most mighty, Judge of the living and the dead, we yield thee hearty thanks that our lives have been spared until now, that we have still the powers and enjoyments of earthly existence, with opportunities of learning more of thee and loving thee better, of turning from sin and drawing near to thee, as our reconciled Father in Christ Jesus.

May we remember that all these privileges are in thy hands; that thou keepest us in life from hour to hour, that thine angels watch over us, and thy presence is with us. When thou hidest thy face we are troubled, when thou withdrawest thy hand we die, for without thee we are nothing and can do nothing. Thou art the glorious God who madest the heavens and the earth; for thy pleasure and by thy word all things are created. The universe is full of thy glory, for all things serve thee. But we have sinned, we have dishonoured thy name and marred thy bright and beauteous world. What shall we say unto thee, O thou preserver of men? We cannot speak of innocence, for our hearts convict us of sin, and thou art greater than our hearts, and knowest

all things. We cannot speak of excuse, for thou didst create and dost sustain us, and we are bound to do all thy will. And we cannot speak of ignorance, for we often do what we know is wrong, and if we read thy Word more we should know better how to please thee.

We desire to bow before thy sovereign majesty, and confess ourselves undone, self-destroyed. If thou condemn us thou art just, and we perish. But because thou hast commended thy love to us, because when we were yet sinners thou gavest thine only Son to die for the ungodly, we have hope. For his sake have pity. Raise us up from the dust of death. Breathe into us the spirit of a new and divine life. Hide thy face from our sins, and lead us into all righteousness. Teach us a faithful service to thee here, make us glad with thy favour, and bring us to glory. Give us grace to trust thee in all things. May we not forget amidst thy mercies our own miserable fallen nature, but may we be ever humble, resting wholly on thee.

And now to thy gracious care and keeping we commit ourselves and all belonging to us this night. Guard our bodies from harm and our souls from sin for the sake of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

SATURDAY.

ALMIGHTY everliving God, who changest not and weariest not, look in pity upon the feeble creatures whom thy hand has made, and thy gracious care alone preserved to the close of another week. Amid the work and pleasure, the plans and the sins of the past few days, how little have we thought how frail we are, and who it was that held us up. Blessed be thy name alike for these daily temporal mercies, and for thy far more precious spiritual gifts of grace.

May these weekly changes remind us of the swift and silent approach of that hour when our time of earthly toil shall end. Give us grace, O Lord, by thy Holy Spirit dwelling in us, so to spend our week of life on earth, that at its end we may fall asleep in Jesus Christ in sure and certain hope of waking to an unending Sabbath of heavenly joys. O that we may then indeed see thee as thou art, and share thy glory, through the merits of our great Intercessor and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. In the sure and well-grounded prospect of that blessed time, may we not despise the day of small things, but be watchful and diligent now in our daily work, and in our behaviour both to one another and to those among

whom thou hast placed us. Lead us humbly and faithfully in the way of thine appointment, and evermore direct us, while we live, how best to employ in thy service and to thy glory the talents which thou hast committed to us.

Accept, we beseech thee, through Jesus Christ, the feeble services which thy grace alone has enabled any of us to do during the past week. Forgive our many sins committed and duties neglected. Fill us with true penitence, that we may draw near thee to-morrow in earnest desire and faith, and find in the exercise of Sabbath privileges fresh springs of love and strength and comfort.

We ask thy special favour for the young. Give grace to their parents and all others who have to do with them, that they may train them up in thy faith and love, and for thy service. And may thy Holy Spirit constrain them to place their hope in Christ, and to live to him.

May thy ministers be sanctified for their holy duties, and may thy ordinances to-morrow be blessed to many, Christians and Heathen, Jews and Gentiles, believers and careless, to the multiplying of thy Church and its establishment in the faith, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SIXTH WEEK.

SUNDAY.

ALMIGHTY God, who from the time of man's creation hast set apart one day in seven to be holy unto thyself, for his bodily rest and spiritual refreshment; we thank thee for preserving this great boon to our country and our times. Give us grace to treasure it and use it aright, and to guard it jealously from every attempt to steal it away from us and thee.

And doubly we thank thee for the remembrance this day always brings us of our dear Lord's triumph over sin and death on our behalf. Praised be thy name, O God, for the great atoning sacrifice by which all our debt has been paid. And praised also be thy name, that we are not left without a living Intercessor, that our Saviour lives and reigns with thee, that from thee through him we have the present gift of the Holy Ghost to comfort us and to guide us into all truth. Praised be thy name that in a risen Christ we have a pledge that we shall rise, that by his example we see and know that thy children's hope shall not make them ashamed, but that we too shall reign with him. Grant that we who enjoy the privilege of commemorating from time to time around the holy table his dying love, may be so made one

with him in his self-denial and obedience, his labours and his sufferings, that we may also be one with him in his resurrection and his glory.

To this end, O Lord, we beseech thee to order our present life. Thou only knowest the work, the trials, the path before us. Guide us to what shall be best for our own souls' welfare, and provide us with abundant opportunities of doing good to others. Give us grace to use our present circumstances diligently, and not to be ever wishing they were different. Choose many faithful men in this nation, we beseech thee, for the work of the ministry; yea, Lord, train up such as thou wilt to hear and humbly welcome in their hearts thy call to bear the gospel tidings to the nations that sit in darkness. Wherever our own lot is cast, make Christ most precious to all of us. May we trust in his atonement, and ever plead his intercession before thee. May we rest on his love, partake of his spirit, follow his example, and wait for his appearing. And may we, and all we love, with all his people, rise with joy to meet him at his coming, and reign with him for ever, in whose name we pray, and to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

MONDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast taught us in all things by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to make known our requests to thee, we thank thee for this encouragement to earnest constant prayer. Blessed be thy name for the gift of a Saviour, a Comforter, a divine teacher to bring thy redeemed near to thee, and to make them like thee. Blessed be thy name for the knowledge of these things which thou hast vouchsafed us, and above all for any grace thou hast given us, enabling us to lay hold on the hope set before us. O that as long as we live the Saviour's finished work, and the indwelling Spirit's grace may be dearer to us than any worldly thing. May the blessed truths of thy holy Word which the world counts foolishness and weariness, come home to our hearts with life-giving energy, and stir the deepest feelings of our souls.

O Lord, we are but poor weak ignorant children, and we can understand and take in but little of thy truth. Thanks be to thee that there are such precious things that even we can comprehend. O Lord, we pray thee for Christ's sake, give us faith to act on what we do understand, and to

trust thee in what we do not. Give us grace in our daily dealings with one another and all around us in every station, in our letters, and in all other things to be true and straightforward, kind and helpful, attentive and diligent. Help us to be punctual about our prayers, jealous of our times for Bible-reading, watchful to say or do something for thee every day. Incline thy people in this neighbourhood to seek our friendship, and us to value theirs, that those who are on thy side may indeed help one another in holding fast to thee.

And now we ask thee to keep us, and all dear to any of us, safe this night. Bless our Queen and church and country. May all whom thou hast entrusted with authority have grace to use it right. Multiply thy mercies upon all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. Remember for good those who are in temptation or danger, in want or sickness, or sorrow, and bless them and us for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY.

Most mighty and merciful God, who hast once sent thy dear Son to be our Saviour, and shalt send him again in the clouds to be our Judge, hear now we beseech thee our thanksgiving and our prayer. For our present daily mercies we thank thee, but far more for the means thou hast provided by which we may stand before the judgment-seat at last with joy, and for the mercy which has brought to us the knowledge of thy ways.

O Saviour, who didst come into a world of sin and death in love for fallen man, and as man didst taste all the bitterness of human life and death for us, come, we pray thee, by thy Holy Spirit into these wayward sin-stained hearts of ours. Scatter thine enemies before thee: drive out every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge and obedience of thee, and reign as our deliverer and our king. Enable us so to know thee by faith, and so to repose upon thy finished work for our hope of acceptance before God, that we may be known and recognised of thee as thine own on the great day. May the knowledge that we are thine now stimulate us to zeal in good works, and diligence in the use of such means and opportunities as thou givest us,

knowing that to those that have, more shall be given at thy coming. O forbid it, Lord, that we should any of us let slip the good hope, or neglect to escape the misery of hell. Draw us, and all dear to any of us close to thee while the day of grace lasts. Give us grace to speak in earnest loving remonstrance, with humiliation and prayer, to those of our friends who are living in sin, or who are halting between two opinions; and dispose their hearts to accept and listen to our words, to the salvation of their souls.

And we pray thee, O Lord God, speedily to accomplish the number of thy elect and to hasten the kingdom of thy dear Son. Dispose the hearts, and guide the steps of many faithful men, willingly to bear abroad the tidings of Christ crucified to every heathen land. May thy day come speedily, and a great multitude whom no man can number, of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues stand before the throne and before the Lamb with joy. And among that blessed company may all we be found, who now present before thee our prayers and praises only in the name of thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY.

O Lord God, who hast made the world and all things therein, who hast fashioned not only the bodies but the hearts of men, we pray thy forgiving grace and fatherly care, that we may lie down to rest in perfect peace, and be found tomorrow in thy faith and fear.

Alas that we should sin as we do against thee. Make us feel in our hearts that a change must be made, and made now. For even now is the axe laid at the root of the tree; and if we do not show by the fruit of a godly life that we are engrafted trees in Christ the true vine, we must be cut down and cast into the fire. We make a good profession, we love to be called by thy name, and hear and read thy word. But may we remember that this alone will not avail. May we give diligence to bear good fruit now, lest we be like the fig-tree which our Lord cursed on earth because it showed fair with leaves, but he found no fruit thereon. May our lives abound in all the fruits of the Spirit, in love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. And, O Father, who art the good husbandman, cut away from us every evil

habit, every false hope, every bosom sin, and all mistaken views of thee, and of Christ, and of holiness. Purge us, that we may bring forth more fruit. Supply nourishment, that we may grow strong, and train us that we may grow aright. Water us with the dew of thy Holy Spirit, that we may be refreshed and comforted, and may the sun of thy favour and grace shine upon us, that we may be enlightened and rejoice in thee.

Look in mercy on the vineyard of the Church which thy hand has planted in the world, and on the branch which thou hast made so strong for thyself in our own favoured England. Cleanse it from all error and superstition, deadness and formality, and may thy Spirit work mightily in it on the souls of men. Extend its limits, O Lord, and increase its fruit. And hasten the glorious day when the Lord of the vineyard shall come to receive the fruit thereof. May we be then found fruitful branches unto praise and honour and rejoicing in our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we offer these and all our petitions. Amen.

THURSDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, thou art the source to which we look for every eternal hope, as well as for holiness, peace, and every Christian virtue.

Forgive us all our sinfulness, and increase our faith, for our Saviour's sake. We are so prone to walk in a vain shadow, thinking of and caring for passing worldly things, as if they were important. We disquiet ourselves in vain about earthly troubles, which often pass away after all, or, if they come upon us, are by thy grace much less painful than was the fear and expectation of them before they came. May we learn to commit all these earthly things with real confidence to thee. We know thou lovest us, we know that thou dost arrange everything as thou wilt, and that thy will is our sanctification and salvation. So we will leave it in thy hands what shall befall us, trusting that in health or sickness, joy or trouble, wealth or poverty, all things will work together for our good.

And as we turn our hearts from earthly trifles which soon pass away, may we fix them on joys and hopes which are eternal. May we remember the end of our life, and thy promises in Christ, and live to thee in him. In work and amusement, at home or abroad, when we are talking and

when we are reading, whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, may we remember the real end of life, and learn in self-denial and obedience, to devote all our lives and labours to thy service. Make us more pure and thorough in our faith. We often see things done which are not quite in accordance with thy word and will. May we enabled by thy Holy Spirit never to have anything to do with such things, however inconvenient it may be, however much they may be supported by the example of others. May we take the Bible for our rule of life, and never move from its teaching to the right hand or to the left. Help us so to spend our days, that we may never have our declining years embittered by evil memories and evil habits.

Bless us, O God, this night, and all for whom we should pray. May our Queen be preserved and prospered by thee, and may her heart be ever lifted heavenward. May her subjects always faithfully and humbly obey her. May the country be governed under her for the welfare of thy church, that it may flourish more and more, and bring souls to Christ. Bless the Royal Family, that they may set an example of Christian conduct and purity of life. Bless our dear relations and friends, and hear our prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

FRIDAY.

O ALMIGHTY GOD, we sinners desire thy fatherly love to accept us as we approach thee now, and to give us humble penitent hearts, and a contrite spirit.

O suppress within us all those risings of pride which would find satisfaction in anything we have done. May it be our satisfaction to think what Christ has done for us. Teach us to value ability only as enabling us to do more for thee, and success only as shewing that we are really striving to serve thee in our daily duties. May we never set up any pursuits or amusements of our own in the place of that work which thou hast appointed for each of us. And help us so to serve thee that each night we may lie down to rest in peaceful gratitude for having been enabled to live unto thee during the day past.

We too often forget how completely we lean on thee not only for earthly blessings, but for grace and vigour to shun evil and pursue what is good. But from thee cometh every good gift and every perfect gift. Pour out thy Holy Spirit into the hearts which know him not as yet. And bring more entirely into willing subjection to him the

hearts in which he already dwells. Preserve us from vexing him by disregarding the warnings of conscience, or neglecting prayer and the reading of thy Word. Keep us from the sins which most easily beset us, from pride and love of the world, from extravagance selfishness and sloth, from deceit in word or deed, from unholiness and unkindness. And that we may be the less open to temptation, make us active and diligent in every good work.

Have mercy upon our Church and nation. Enlarge thy favour to those who are most cast upon thee. Be a Father to the fatherless, the comforter of the widow, the strength of the weak, and the hope of the disconsolate.

Bless our friends and relations, and draw them to thyself. May they strive to do thy will, and to live as in thy sight. May they rejoice in what pleases thee, and shun whatever might grieve or dishonour thee.

Preserve us in the night watches, O our God, and bring us in health and strength to another day, if such be thy will; for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY.

WE yield thee hearty thanks, most merciful Father, for the loving care which has followed us through the past week. Although habit makes us enjoy and count upon thy numberless mercies from day to day as a mere matter of course, yet we thankfully welcome every duty which throws us back upon thee, and reminds us how we owe to thee our life and breath and every comfort we enjoy. Increase our gratitude, we beseech thee, for thy countless mercies; incline us to meditate more than we do upon them, and to use more distinctly in thy service and for thy glory the varied gifts of thy love.

During the past week we have had time, and powers of mind and body, we have most of us had money, and all of us had influence—gifts from thee to be employed in thy service. Thou knowest how we have squandered these gifts on ourselves, and our present enjoyment. We have had loving friends about us: thou knowest what little heed we have paid to their welfare and happiness. We have had thy Word in our house, and in our hands. We have been called morning and evening to worship. The Scriptures have been read in our ears,

supplication has been put into our mouths: thou knowest if our spirits have been engaged in profiting by these means of grace. May the atonement of thy dear Son Jesus Christ be effectual for blotting out our miserable sins and shortcomings. And may our faintest desires or efforts after thee be accepted before thee through the merits of his intercession. Help us we pray thee henceforth individually and as one family in Christ to try and enter more vigorously and consciously into our Master's service, our Captain's warfare. Enable us to stir up one another to live unto Christ.

Bless us, our dear friends, and the whole Church on the morrow with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Dispose men to value and jealously to observe a Sabbath rest. Sanctify thy ministers for their blessed work. Mete out thy gifts in large measure to thy people according to their several needs. May our Queen, and all in places of influence and authority, value thy holy day, and find a blessing in it. Hear us, we beseech thee, in these our prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord. Amen.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

SATURDAY BEFORE COMMUNION.

O LORD, whose tender mercies have brought us safely through another day and another week, we return thee hearty thanks for thy protection and all thy loving-kindnesses. We have sinned and done evil, but thou hast only done us good. We have often forgotten thee, but thou hast not forgotten us. We have ruined ourselves by sin, but thou hast restored us by grace. And we come now with all our guilt upon us, all our selfishness and ill-tempers, our pride and disobedience and sloth, we come all defiled by thoughts and words and deeds of sin, to implore thy forgiveness. O Lord Christ, who lovest to be called the friend and Saviour of sinners, be *our* friend, *our* Saviour. By all that thou hast done and suffered for us, have compassion on us and help us. Cast out the evil spirit within us, and give us thy good spirit to make us holy and harmless and full of love, like thee.

Hitherto, O God, thou hast helped us. Be with us in the night watches, and prepare us in soul and body for the Sabbath. May we spend it aright. Let us not be careful and troubled about our many earthly wants and pursuits, but may we peacefully turn our thoughts to the one thing needful, our hopes toward heaven, our love toward thee. En-

able us to meditate on heavenly things, and to say a word for thee among our companions. Keep us from the snare of joining in worldly conversation or reading worldly books on thy holy day. And may we in our secret prayers, and over our Bibles, as well as in thy house, find it a good and joyful thing to spend the day with thee.

And give thy special blessing to those of our number who shall meet around thy holy Table to-morrow. May we all feel it a solemn and a happy thing that they are permitted so to appear before thee, and may their service draw down a blessing upon us all. May they come with a pure and humble heart to lay their sins on the Lamb of atonement, and to gain strength for a new and pure and earnest life.

Look down in love on our friends and relations, and pour out on them a Sabbath blessing. Have mercy on our country and our Queen, on our Church and on thy ministers, especially those who shall minister in this place. Shew pity on all who are bowed down with sickness or trouble. Bring many souls to thyself to-morrow, and glorify thy dear Son, and hasten his kingdom.

We offer all our petitions in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNION SUNDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we have to thank thee for the privileges of another Sabbath of rest and worship. Although we have let worldly thoughts come in and steal away our hearts from intercourse with thee, yet we trust that all has not been lost; that thy goodness has not been all in vain. Forgive us for our Saviour's sake, for the dishonour we have done thee by our carelessness and worldliness. And grant that the good we have received may be lasting, and prove a real comfort and strength to our souls.

We desire especially to thank thee for thy great goodness in calling some of our number to thy Son's holy table. Grant, Lord, that as their bodies have been partakers of the bread and wine, so their souls may be strengthened, refreshed, and cleansed by the body and blood of our dear Saviour. Help us to realise more what his bitter death upon the Cross has been to us; and as we consider the sacred ordinance of his appointment, make us feel how close and real is that fellowship which we may have with him. As we all share in the benefits of his death, may this common tie bind us closely together in a holy fellowship of love.

We desire to intercede before thee for those friends and former neighbours who in time gone by have knelt with us in the sacred ordinance of this day, but who are no longer amongst us. We would that our prayers and thy mercy may follow them, to support them in temptation, to shield them in danger, to wrestle with them in sin, and to cheer and further them in all their work for thee. Hear us also, we beseech thee, for thy whole Church throughout the world; that every member of it may look for salvation to Christ, as he is set forth crucified for us, and that we may all spiritually feed on him by faith, and be made one in him.

O blessed Saviour, at thy bidding we have confessed thy holy name this day: but give us grace to conform our life to our professions. May our words and conduct this week prove to those around us, and especially to God who tries the hearts, that we are really nearer to thee, and have imbibed more of thy Holy Spirit than heretofore. And for all that thou hast done, and all thy precious promises we would ascribe to thee, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, adoration and praise, world without end. Amen.

ASCENSION DAY.

ALMIGHTY Father, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and when we had rebelled against thee didst purchase us back to thyself by thy Son's most precious death, we desire to look to thee in his merits alone. Help us to believe and feel at once our miserable unworthiness, and thine unswerving love. And, O Father, do constrain us to go on differently, not to grieve thee so by our wilfulness and selfishness, but to live as those who have a heavenly home to look to, and whose happiness at last shall be in the presence and the likeness of a pure and holy Saviour. Thou, O Lord, must do this work in us and for us. Thou must help us not to mar or hinder the work by our obstinacy and sin.

Blessed Saviour, we would gaze up into heaven after thee, to where thou sittest in glory at thy Father's right hand, still the same in mercy, love, and remembrance of thy redeemed. Thou hast been infant, boy, and man. Thou hast lived as we do, yet without sin, and hast died as we must die. Thanks be to thee for the blessed hope that we too, if we be thine, shall rise from the grave by thy grace and power, and shall be caught up toge-

ther with all thy saints to meet thee in the air, and so shall we be ever with our Lord. Fill us then, we beseech thee, with thy Spirit, in holiness faith and love. May we who hope to share thy glory, humble ourselves to take up our cross and follow thee on earth, in doing our Father's will, and seeking others' good.

Thanks be to thee, most gracious God, that we have this great High Priest who is passed into the heavens, and who ever maketh intercession for us; who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, having been tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin. Hear us and bless us for his sake; and may we seek those things which are above, where he sitteth at thy right hand. Set thou our affection on things above, not on things below. And help us evermore to walk worthy of our high calling, for the sake of our Saviour and Intercessor, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WHITSUNDAY.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, by whose grace alone we have been brought to the knowledge of the Gospel, and have in baptism been made members of thy Church on earth; we humbly beseech thee to vouchsafe to us the precious gift of thy Holy Spirit. For without this all else that thou hast done for us, yea, even thine only Son's death for our sakes must be in vain. In his all-prevailing name we make our prayer.

We thank thee that as on this day thou didst pour out upon thy Apostles and Saints of old many excellent gifts, giving them thy Spirit to dwell with them and be in them, and enabling them in divers tongues and with fervent zeal and boldness to preach thy Gospel to many nations, whereby we have been brought out of darkness and error into the clear light and true knowledge of thee, and of thy Son Jesus Christ. And we most earnestly implore thy free gift, that we, who see the light and know the truth as it is in Jesus, may also be enabled to walk in the same by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. May he by his power cast down within us all vain imaginations, and every high thing which exalts itself against the knowledge of God. May he convince us of sin, and bring us in perfect self-abasement to cast ourselves before

the cross of Christ, that in him, and in none else than him, we may find forgiveness, grace, and peace with thee. May he impart to us holy desires, and enable us to bring them to good effect. And while we yield up all our lives and powers to thee, may we in everything seek thy glory only, and not our own.

O Lord, if it be thy good pleasure, hasten the complete fulfilment of thy promise that thou wilt pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh. And grant us grace to know and recognise that blessed time, and to be ourselves partakers of his precious gifts. And to this end we pray thee to give thy Holy Spirit to all kings and great men of the earth, to all pastors and teachers of thy flock, and all who are gone or shall go forth to bear thy name to the heathen. Make the knowledge of the Lord to cover the earth as the waters cover the seas. Convert thy former people Israel from their obstinate rejection of thy dear Son, that they may look upon him whom they have pierced, and mourn with a godly sorrow unto repentance. And may all thy people in the unity of one Spirit exercise their various gifts to make war against evil, and to build one another up in their most holy faith, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

O GLORIOUS and gracious God, our Father, to whom we owe our life and preservation and every temporal and spiritual mercy, assembled once more before thee here we would acknowledge our complete dependence on thee, and most heartily thank thee for the great mercy which has followed us during the year which is now drawing to a close. While many have languished in pain or want, in distress of body or mind, we have been enabled to enjoy thy gifts with a glad heart, and in possession of all our faculties. While to many the torments of a guilty conscience or the dread of approaching death and judgment have brought dismay, we thank thee if we have been able to rejoice in thy favour, and to join with the love of those about us the peace of a reasonable hope in Christ.

Forgive us, O Lord, that we have made so little use of our opportunities, that we have forgotten thee so often, and sinned against thee so grievously in spite of the light and knowledge by which we are surrounded. O that henceforth we may shew a truer sense of our responsibilities, and greater gratitude for all thy love.

Be with us, we beseech thee, in the duties and responsibilities which lie before us in the

approaching year. O may thy blessing be with all of us next year—thy blessing, without which none can truly prosper, by which we live indeed. May our thoughts and words and actions be so ordered by thy governance that we may both joyfully serve thee in Christ Jesus, and by our example and influence may encourage others in the right way. May those who dwell around us here have thy blessing with them, and live amongst us happily, gaining good and doing good, and growing in thy faith and fear to the glory of thy name. And we pray thee to extend thy fatherly protection and favour to those who are dear to any of us. Lord, evermore keep them from the evil one, and make their path plain; may they feel the need and taste the fulness of their Saviour's finished work and thy Holy Spirit's grace.

Defend us from all temporal evils, illness and accident and every calamity. And enable us, if we are spared to see the close of another year in peace, to thank thee from the heart for thy loving kindness and truth towards us, the sheep of thy pasture.

We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY BEFORE A WEEK OF SPECIAL WORK OR EXCITEMENT.

O God, the strength of all that put their trust in thee, hear us, we pray thee, on this the evening of thy holy day, and give us the true spirit of prayer, that we may faithfully ask such things as shall please thee, and effectually obtain our petitions for our Saviour's sake.

We bless thee for the day now past, for the ordinances of thy house, for the opportunities of meeting thee in prayer, and in thy Holy Word [and around thy table], for the rest and comfort we have enjoyed. These are thy gifts, but, oh, how sadly have we misused them. Whilst thou hast waited to be gracious to us, we have let worldly thoughts, cares, and employments keep us back from thee, and so we have lost much of the blessing and strength and comfort which should have been ours. Forgive our great sin for Christ's sake, and mercifully grant that not according to our deserving, but according to thine abundant love and compassion in him, our souls may be purified and strengthened for the work of the coming week.

O Lord, if thou shouldest leave us to ourselves we have no hope, for without thee all the imaginations of our hearts are only evil continually.

Leave us not, neither forsake us, O Lord God of our salvation, but for thy Son's sake, and according to his gracious promise, dwell by the Holy Ghost in our hearts, that we may be made holy in thought and word and act, and may patiently do the work which thou hast set before us, in thee and for thee. Strengthen us, we beseech thee, O Lord, and daily increase in us thy manifold gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and fill us, O Lord, with the spirit of thy holy fear, now and ever.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, especially to those who are in any trouble; and to thy servants engaged in making known thy truth in the dark places of the earth. May thy will be done, as by others so also by us, perfectly, and may thy kingdom come quickly in all the earth.

Bless our dear relations and friends, and all whom we should remember in our prayers. May we ever prize their affection, and strive to promote their happiness to the best of our power. Wherever they may be, may thy watchful care and love be with them. May they be blessed themselves and made a blessing to others upon earth;

and in heaven may they and we meet in joy before thy throne for evermore.

Thankful for thy great goodness to us, we commit ourselves to thy providential care for the coming night, and the coming week. May we lie down in safety, and when we wake refreshed, may we be still with thee. And amid the cares and excitements and work which are before us, may we not forget thee, nor be led to do that which is evil in thy sight. May we hold fast to our Bibles and to prayer. Preserve us from temptations to do anything unworthy of our Christian name, or to depart from our integrity. And the Lord prosper the work of our hands upon us: O prosper thou our handywork; and bless us for the sake of thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ON THE RETURN OF THE FAMILY AFTER ABSENCE FROM HOME.

MOST MIGHTY GOD, we desire to praise and magnify thy glorious name for all thy greatness and goodness as thou hast revealed thyself to us thy unworthy creatures. Who is like unto thee, O Lord our God, who hast thy dwelling so high, and yet humblest thyself to behold the things that are in heaven and earth; who makest man out of the dust; who wilt exalt us to thy holy place to behold thy face in righteousness, in the presence of the angels in glory? Give us grace, we beseech thee, to lay hold on thy precious promises through our Lord Jesus Christ; and taking him unto ourselves as the Lamb of our atonement, our great High Priest, and the Lord our righteousness, may we ever present ourselves before thee humbly in remembrance of our own utter unworthiness, boldly in the confidence of our great Intercessor, and joyfully in the sure hope of everlasting life.

We would now especially remember before thee our sins and thy mercies since last we knelt together here in worship. Forgive, O Lord, our forgetfulness of thee, our engrossment in the pleasures

and interests which have surrounded us. Forgive our evil thoughts and desires, as well as our sinful acts; and so renew us by the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts, that we may henceforth live more humbly, soberly, and godly, in this world of temptation.

We thank thee for that measure of health and refreshment to mind and body which thou hast been pleased to grant us, and we bless thee for having brought us thus safely back again to our dear home in peace. And to thee we would now in humble gratitude dedicate our powers anew, beseeching thee to accept our unworthy service for Christ's sake, forgiving our sinfulness, and giving us thy guidance and blessing. Whatever circumstances thy providence may appoint for us, may we humbly and thankfully receive them as from a loving Father, and be by them drawn nearer to thee, and strengthened more faithfully to devote the remainder of our lives and powers to thee, who hast made us and redeemed us to thyself.

Be with us, O God, during the time to come. Whilst we gratefully accept the joy and relaxation which is past as given us by thee, we pray for thy Holy Spirit's aid to keep a special guard over our heart and conduct, that we may not sin against thee. Bless our dear relations and friends,

and may our renewed intercourse with those around us be blest to them and us alike.

And may thy favour rest upon thy whole Church, upon this land, and all Christian lands. May thy word be the constant study of thy people everywhere, and take such deep root in their hearts that it may bring forth abundant fruit, to thy honour and glory.

We now commit ourselves to thy care this night. Keep us and ours from all evil and danger, for the sake of him in whose name we present before thee ourselves and all our petitions, Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

ON A BIRTHDAY.

O God, who hearest prayer, attend unto our cry, and fill us with thy Spirit, for Christ's sake.

As we reflect on our past life we desire to bless thee for the mercies, temporal and spiritual, which we have enjoyed. We bless thee for our bodily health and comfort, our freedom from pain and care, the use of our faculties, and of our limbs, the pleasures and interests which are ours. Far more we thank thee for the spiritual privileges of living in a Christian land, of hearing thy pure Word preached, and worshipping thee in thy house, as well as in private. And we praise thy goodness in giving us such opportunities of self-improvement, of learning self-restraint and a truly Christian life amid so few temptations, and with so much to help and encourage us. For these and all thy mercies we praise thy holy name.

But alas that we have not duly improved these privileges, to the honour of thy name, and our own growth in heartfelt religion and likeness to Christ. O we are indeed unworthy of thy goodness. As hopelessly sinful we come to thee through Christ. God be merciful to us sinners, and enable us henceforth to walk more worthy of our high calling.

Yet we thank thee if in any measure we have grown in grace and nearness to thee, if any greater

devotion to our duties, or humility and self-control and kindness towards others, have marked the past. May we seriously consider our duties and responsibilities, and laying aside every weight may we resolve to know nothing among our neighbours but Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And looking to him, may we run with patience the race set before us, and so live and labour as in thy sight, that hereafter we may see thy face with joy.

To thee we would especially commend *him* who who has been spared to enter this day on another year of life. May thy goodness always abound towards *him*. Sanctify *him* by thy Holy Spirit, and keep *him* in the knowledge and love of Christ. May *he* be a shining light in this sinful world. May *he* fight a good fight, and keep the faith; and beyond the grave may *he* meet us all in glory for evermore.

Holy Father, shield and bless our dear friends and relations, and grant them all the good things which we ask for ourselves, according to thy wisdom and love. Knit our hearts together in thyself, and bless all our mutual intercourse with thy Fatherly presence. Shine upon us with thy favour, and answer our unworthy prayers out of the fulness that is in Christ: to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

BEFORE A CONFIRMATION OR BAPTISM.

O LORD, our Lord, at the close of another day we thank thee for all the goodness and mercy which have followed us from our birth until now; and more especially for the blessings of the day gone by. If temptations have not assailed, or assailing have not overcome us, if dangers to body and soul, if grief and pain and sickness, if the terrors of a guilty conscience or the dread of impending evil, have not brought us low, to thee we owe our safe keeping. If any holy thoughts and desires have filled our hearts, if we have really found thee in thy Word or in prayer, if we have in any way promoted thy cause, O Lord to thee be all the praise. And on thy dear Son's head we would in confession and penitence lay all our sins in thought word or deed, and all our neglect of doing good. Lord have mercy upon us, and blot out our sins past in Christ's most precious blood. And sanctify us by thy Holy Spirit, that we may both will and do of thy good pleasure, and resting in the fulness of thy love may enjoy that peace in our souls which passes knowledge.

Be with us and ours, O Lord, this night, to bless and keep us. Grant us health and strength sufficient for the duties and circumstances which lie before us. Especially we intercede with thee

for *him* who is about to be presented before thee in thy house, and claim the privileges of thy children. We would bless thee for *him*, and pray that thy Holy Spirit may be poured out upon *him* of a truth. Merciful God, grant that the old Adam in *him* may be so buried that the new man may be raised up in *him*. Grant that all carnal affections may die in *him*, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *him*. May *he* never be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, but ever manfully fight under his banner, and continue his faithful soldier and servant unto *his* life's end. Grant *him* power and strength from above to have victory and to triumph against the devil, the world, and the flesh. Grant that *he*, being accepted by thee as thy child, may be endued with heavenly virtues, and everlastingly rewarded through thy mercy, O Lord God, who dost live and govern all things, world without end.

And for ourselves also we pray, that we, rightly valuing our christian name, and being aroused to new desires after holiness, may henceforth walk nearer to thee in faith and love, purifying ourselves even as thou art pure, and seeking to be conformed to the likeness of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, in whose name alone we offer these our prayers. Amen.

IN TIME OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, OR OTHER PERIL.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, we desire at all times to look to thee for grace and support; but now especially we need thy help. Thou hast called to us in solemn warning [through sickness and death] to consider our ways, and prepare to meet our God. We know that this is good for us, and we desire humbly to bless thee for thus dealing with us in love. We have long professed to put all our trust in thee. Every night we have in words consigned ourselves to thy keeping, and every morning have sought thy support and guidance through the day. And now thou wilt try us, whether we meant what we said, or whether we were living in a dream, and only talked of trusting thee because we feared no ill. O God of mercy, forgive our hypocrisy and unbelief; and enable us now to lay ourselves down to sleep with as sure a trust as ever in thy loving care. Lord God our Father, we wait here before thee, that thou mayest deal with us as thou wilt: nor do we fear to wait on thee, knowing that thy love is as constant and boundless in chastisement as in prosperity.

We beseech thee more than ever for grace to use cheerful diligence in all our daily duties and

interests, and to help one another by an example of hearty confidence. Keep us from fear, or a desire to fly from the path of duty, knowing that he shall be blessed indeed who, when thou callest him away, shall be found doing his appointed work faithfully for thy sake.

Have mercy upon all who are in sickness, suffering, or want; and especially on any in whom we are especially interested. Incline us to a warmer and more prayerful sympathy with them. Support and cheer them in their time of trouble, draw them very near to thee, and give them a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

Bless our dear relations and friends, grant that in their loving anxiety on our behalf they may be drawn nearer to thee, and really repose upon thy unfailing promises.

And help us, Lord, at this time with all seriousness and sincerity to examine our ways; to give up unholy, selfish, idle habits; to renounce all vain confidence; and ordering our steps in humility and love, according to thy holy Word, to seek for thy Holy Spirit's sanctifying grace: for the sake of him in whom is all our hope, thy dear Son Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

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¶ *Then likewise he shall say,*

O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer. And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

Priest. O God, make speed to save us.

Answer. O Lord, make haste to help us.

¶ *Here all standing up, the Priest shall say,*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Priest. Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. The Lord's Name be praised.

¶ *Then shall be said or sung this Psalm following: except on* Easter-Day, *upon which another Anthem is appointed;* [Printed before the Proper Psalms on Easter-Day, Page 136,] *and on the Nineteenth day of every Month it is not to be read here, but in the ordinary Course of the Psalms.*

Venite, exultemus Domino. Psalm 95.

COME, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving: and shew ourselves glad in him with Psalms.

For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth: and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.

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19 But mine enemies live, and are mighty : and they that hate me wrongfully are many in number.
20 They also that reward evil for good are against me : because I follow the thing that good is.
21 Forsake me not, O Lord my God : be not thou far from me.
22 Haste thee to help me : O Lord God of my salvation.

For Continuation of the Service, see Page 158.

Good-Friday.

PSALM 22. *Deus, Deus meus.*

MY God, my God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me : and art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint?
2 O my God, I cry in the day-time, but thou hearest not : and in the night-season also I take no rest.
3 And thou continuest holy : O thou worship of Israel.
4 Our fathers hoped in thee : they trusted in thee, and thou didst deliver them.
5 They called upon thee, and were holpen : they put their trust in thee, and were not confounded.
6 But as for me, I am a worm, and no man : a very scorn of men, and the out-cast of the people.
7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn : they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying,
8 He trusted in God, that he would deliver him : let him deliver him, if he will have him.

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2 *Cor.* xiii.

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Here endeth the LITANY.

¶ [Here follows the Service for the Holy Communion, for which see Page 138.]

¶ [On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, the Litany is not used, but immediately after the Collect for *Grace*, the Service is continued as follows.]

A Prayer for the Queen's Majesty.

O LORD our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; Most heartily we beseech thee with thy favour to behold our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen *VICTORIA*; and so replenish her with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that she may alway incline to thy will, and walk in thy way: Endue her plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant her in health and wealth long to live; strengthen her that she may vanquish and overcome all her enemies; and finally, after this life, she may attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Royal Family.

ALMIGHTY God, the Fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless *Albert Edward* Prince of *Wales*, the Princess of *Wales*, and all the Royal Family: Endue them with thy holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Clergy and People.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels; Send down upon our Bishops, and Curates, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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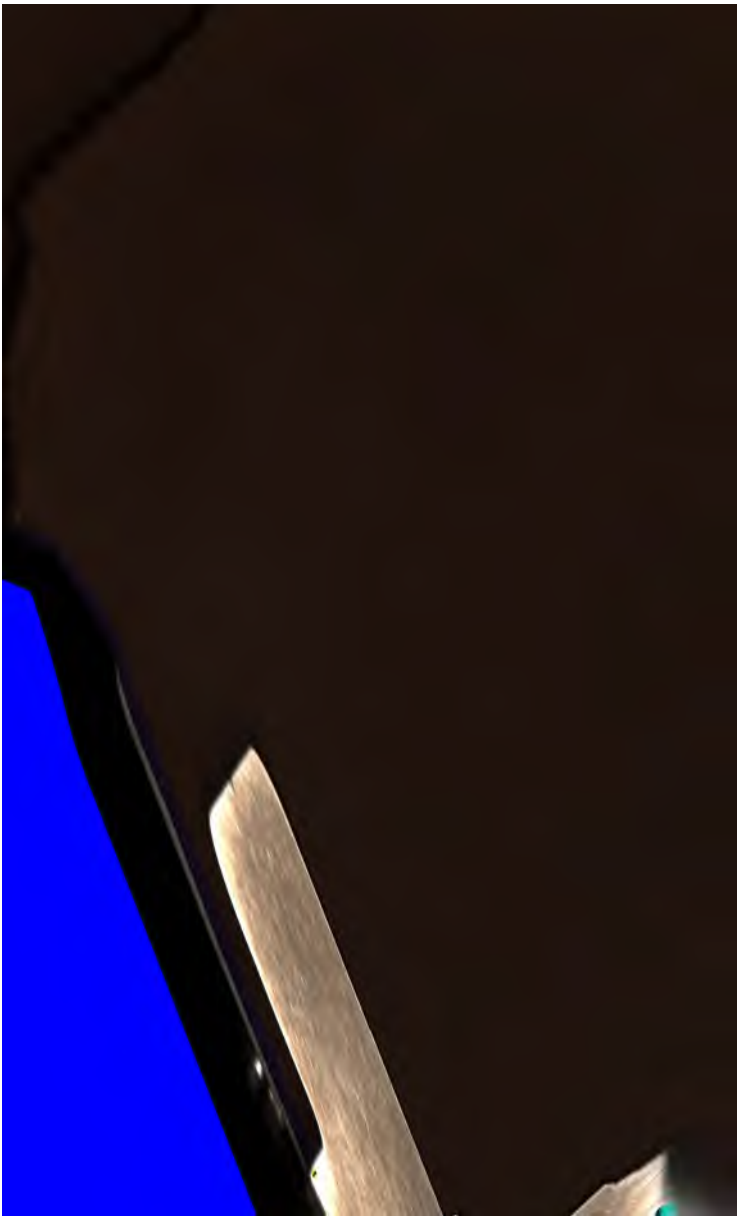
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